IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Mail Stop <u>RCE</u> Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, the documents listed on the accompanying Form 1449 are called to the attention of the Examiner for the above patent application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), no copies of U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications are provided. Copies of any listed foreign patent documents, non-published U.S. patent applications, and non-patent literature are enclosed.

Citation of these documents shall not be construed as:

- an admission that the documents are necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention;
- 2. a representation that a search has been made; or
- an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. The undersigned hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission be charged to deposit account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,

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